

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on 7/7/09, Mr. Jiawei Huang requested an extension of time for one MONTH(S) and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0710 the required fee of \$130.00 for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

In claim 14, line 3, "said second disc plate" has been changed to --a second disc plate--.

In claim 28, line 1, "claim 25" has been changed to --claim 27--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-24, and 29 are allowable because there is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of a coating apparatus comprising the combination of a ventilated rotating drum in which granules are to be processed and which is driven to rotate around its axial line, a ventilation mechanism, and a casing accommodating said rotating drum and said ventilation mechanism therein, wherein said rotating drum comprises one end and the other end along the direction of the axial line and a peripheral wall that connects said one end and said other end,

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said other end being located on the side of a rotary drive mechanism for driving said rotating drum, said one end, said other end, and said peripheral wall as a whole configure a vessel for the granules, said peripheral wall has no air passage and is bare inside said casing, said one end and said other end are respectively provided with an air vent, one of which constitutes an air inlet for supplying a process gas from outside into said rotating drum, and the other one of which constitutes an air outlet for exhausting the process gas from inside said rotating drum to the outside, when coating the granules, said ventilation mechanism is provided at the other end of said rotating drum communicating with the air vent at said other end to an air duct at a first location where the air vent at said other end overlaps a layer of the granules inside said rotating drum, wherein the process gas supplied into said rotating drum through said air inlet passes through said layer of the granules inside said rotating drum and is exhausted from said air outlet wherein said ventilation mechanism includes a first disc plate constituting the other end of said rotating drum and having an air vent consisting of porous parts arranged in a ring shape around the axial line of said rotating drum.

Claims 27 and 28 are allowable because there is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of a coating apparatus comprising the combination of a ventilated rotating drum in which granules are to be processed and which is driven to rotate around its axial line, characterized in that said rotating drum includes one end and the other end along the direction of the axial line and a peripheral wall that connects said one end and said other end, said other end being located on the side of a rotary drive mechanism for driving said rotating drum; said one end and said other end are respectively provided with an air vent, one of which constitutes an air inlet for supplying process gas from outside into said rotating drum, and the other one of which

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constitutes an air outlet for exhausting the process gas from inside said rotating drum to the outside; and the process gas supplied into said rotating drum through said air inlet is passed through a layer of the granules inside said rotating drum and exhausted from said air outlet, wherein the other end of said rotating drum is connected to a hollow drive shaft of the rotary drive mechanism for driving said rotating drum, and granule products inside said rotating drum are discharged to the outside through inside said hollow drive shaft wherein the coating apparatus further includes a ventilation mechanism, and said ventilation mechanism includes a first disc plate constituting the other end of said rotating drum and having an air vent consisting of porous parts arranged in a ring shape around the axial line of said rotating drum.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura Edwards whose telephone number is (571) 272-1227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine Norton can be reached on (571) 272-1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Laura Edwards/
Primary Examiner
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July 7, 2009